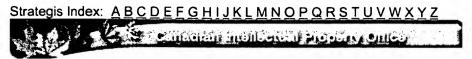


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Canadian Patents Database

(12) Patent Application:

(11) CA 2205030

- (54) POLYMERIZATION IN AQUEOUS MEDIA
- (54) SYNTHESE DE POLYMERE

Representative Drawing:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} CH_2 & V & X \\ \hline V & CH_2 & CH_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c|c} X & CH_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c|c} CH_2 & CH_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}$$

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ABSTRACT:

Process for the synthesis of block polymers, homopolymers and copolymers of narrow polydispersity having formula (1) by contacting selected vinyl monomer(s), vinyl-terminated compound(s) and free radicals in which effective control of production of polymer is achieved by controlling the mole ratio of vinyl monomer(s), vinyl-terminated compound(s) and free radicals relative to one another; and polymers produced thereby.

CLAIMS: Show all claims

*** Note: Data on abstracts and claims is shown in the official language in which it was submitted.

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(54) Title: POLYMER SYNTHESIS

(57) Abstract

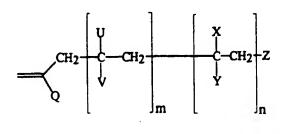
Process for the synthesis of block polymers, homopolymers and copolymers of narrow polydispersity having formula (1) by contacting selected vinyl monomer(s), vinyl-terminated compound(s) and free radicals in which effective control of production of polymer is achieved by controlling the mole ratio of vinyl monomer(s), vinyl-terminated compound(s) and free radicals relative to one another; and polymers produced thereby.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} CH_2 & X \\ \hline \\ CH_2 & CH_2 \\ \hline \\ m & Y \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} X \\ CH_2 \\ \hline \\ m \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} (I) \\ \end{array}$$

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CLAIMS

1. A process for the synthesis of polymers of the general formula:



comprising contacting:

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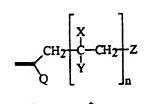
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(i) a vinyl monomer of the formula

 $CH_2 = CUV$

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(ii) a vinyl-terminated compound of formula



and

- (iii) free radicals, produced from a free radical source; and
- increasing the molar amount of polymers by one or both of:
 - (a) decreasing the molar amount of (iii) for any given conversion of (i);
 - (b) decreasing the molar amount of (i) for any given conversion of (iii); wherein:
- Q is selected from the group H, R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

U is selected from H and R;

V is selected from R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

20 X is selected from H and R;

Y is selected from R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

Z is selected from the group H, SR1, S(O)R, S(O) $_2$ R, R² and R³;

R is selected from the group substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl and organosilyl groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently

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selected from the group carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino and halogen;

- R¹ is selected from the group H, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from the group carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino and halogen;
- R² is selected from the group free radical initiator-derived fragments of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, sulfate groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from R, OR¹, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H (and salts), CO₂R, CN, CONH₂,

CONHR, CONR₂,
$$-C_{N-CH_2}^{N-CH_2}$$
 (and salts) and $-C_{NH_2}^{NH}$ (and salts);

- R³ is selected from the group radical chain transfer agent-derived fragments of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, and PR₂ groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from R, OR¹, SR, NR₂, NHR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR, and CONR₂; m and n are independently ≥ 1; and when either or both of m and n are greater than 1, the repeat units are the same or different.
- 2. A process according to Claim 1 wherein (i) is selected from one or more of following monomers, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, isobornyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, benzyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, 25 methacrylonitrile, alpha methyl styrene, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate, acrylic acid, benzyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, styrene, functional methacrylate, acrylates and styrene selected from glycidyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate, hydroxybutyl methacrylate, 30 diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, triethyleneglycol methacrylate, itaconic anhydride, itaconic acid, glycidyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, hydroxybutyl acrylate, diethylaminoethyl acrylate, triethyleneglycol acrylate, methacrylamide, N-tert-butyl methacrylamide, N-n-butyl methacrylamide, Nmethyl-ol methacrylamide, N-ethyl-ol methacrylamide, N-tert-butyl acrylamide, N-35 n-butyl acrylamide, N-methyl-ol acrylamide, N-ethyl-ol acrylamide, vinyl benzoic

acid, diethylamino styrene, alphamethylvinyl benzoic acid, diethylamin alphamethylstyrene, para-methylstyrene, p-vinyl benzene sulfonic acid, trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, tributoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, diethoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, diisopropoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, trimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, vinyl chloride, vinyl fluoride, vinyl bromide.

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3. A process according to Claim 1 wherein (ii) is selected where Q, -XYC-CH₂-, Z and "n" are independently selected from one or more of the following:

Q = H, methyl, ethyl, butyl, cyclohexyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, phenoxy, acetate, propionate, butyrate, benzoate, carboxylate, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, nitrile, amide, N-methylamide, N-ethylamide, N-propylamide, N,N-dimethylamide, N,N-diethylamide, N,N-dibutylamide, N-methyl-N-ethylamide, carboxylate ester of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, benzyl, phenyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 4-hydroxy-butyl, 3-hydroxybutyl, 3-trimethoxysilylpropyl, 3-triethoxysilylpropyl, 3-tributoxy-silylpropyl, 3-tri(isopropoxy)silylpropyl, 2-aminoethyl, 3-amino-propyl, 2-aminopropyl, 4-aminobutyl, 3-aminobutyl, 2-epoxypropyl, or 3-epoxypropyl;

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-XYC-CH₂- = derived from one or more of the following monomers: methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, isobornyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, benzyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, methacrylate, styrene, alpha methyl styrene, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate, hydroxybutyl methacrylate, diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, triethyleneglycol methacrylate, N-tert-butyl methacrylamide, N-n-butyl methacrylamide, N-methyl-ol methacrylamide, N-ethyl-ol methacrylamide, trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, tributoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl

methacrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, diisopropoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate, acrylic acid, benzyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, styrene, glycidyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, hydroxybutyl acrylate, diethylaminoethyl acrylate, triethyleneglycol acrylate, N-tert-butyl acrylamide, N-n-butyl acrylamide, N-methyl-ol acrylamide, N-ethyl-ol acrylamide, vinyl benzoic acid, diethylamino styrene, p-vinyl benzene sulfonic acid, para-methylstyrene, trimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, tributoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxysilylpropyl acrylate, vinyl acetate, and vinyl butyrate.

 $Z = H, SR^1, S(O)R, S(O)_2R, R^2, or R^3;$

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- R = methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, phenyl, benzyl, 2-phenylpropyl, trimethoxysilylpropyl, tributoxysilyl-propyl, hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 2-epoxypropyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-aminopropyl, methoxymethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl, 2-methoxy-propyl, or heptafluoropropyl;
- R¹ = hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, phenyl, benzyl, 2-phenylpropyl, trimethoxysilyl-propyl, tributoxysilylpropyl, hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 2-epoxypropyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-aminopropyl, methoxymethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl, 2-methoxypropyl, or heptafluoropropyl;
- R² = 2,4-dimethylpentanenitrile, 2-methylbutanenitrile, 2-methylpropanenitrile, cyclohexanecarbonitrile, 4-cyanopentanoic acid, N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine, N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine hydrochloride, 2-amidinopropane, 2-amidinopropane hydrochloride, 2-methyl-N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)ethyl] propionamide, 2-methyl-N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] propionamide, 2-methyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl) propionamide, isobutyamide hydrate, hydroxyl, or sulfate;
- R³ = 1,1-bis(carboethoxy)ethyl, 1,1-bis(carbomethoxy)ethyl, bis(carboethoxy)methyl, bis(carbomethoxy)methyl, 1-carboethoxy-1-phenyl ethyl, 1-carbomethoxy-1-phenyl ethyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, 1-methyl-1[carbo(2-epoxypropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(2-hydroxyethoxy)]ethyl,

1-methyl-1-[carbo(4-hydroxy-butoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(2-aminoethoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(3-trimethoxysilylpropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(3-dimethoxyethoxysilylpropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(3-dimethoxyethoxysilylpropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(2-methoxyethoxy)]ethyl, (N,N-di-methylamino)(cyano)methyl, N,N-dimethylamino-(benzo)methyl, thiomethyl(cyano)methyl, or thioethyl(cyano)methyl; n ≥ 1 and when greater than 1, the repeat units are the same or different.

- 4. A process according to Claim 1 wherein (iii) is selected from one or more of the following: 2,2'-azobis(isobutyronitrile), 2,2'-azobis(2-butanenitrile), 4,4'-10 azobis(4-cyanpentanoic acid), 1,1'-azobis(cyclohexanecarbonitrile), 2-(t-butylazo)-2-cvanopropane, 2,2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-(1,1)- bis(hydoxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] propionamide, 2.2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-hydroxyethyl)]-propionamide, 2,2'azobis(N.N'-dimethylene-isobutyramidine) dichloride, 2,2'-azobis(2amidinopropane) dichloride, 2,2'-azobis(N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramide), 2,2'-15 azobis(2-methyl- N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] propionamide), 2,2'azobis(2-methyl-N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)ethyl] propionamide), 2,2'-azobis[2methyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl) propionamide], 2,2'-azobis(iso-butyramide) dihydrate, t-butylperoxyacetate, t-butylperoxybenzoate, t-butylperoxyoctoate, tbutylperoxyneodecanoate, t-butylperoxyiso-butyrate, t-amylperoxypivalate, t-20 butylperoxypivalate, cumene hydroperoxide, dicumyl peroxide, benzoyl peroxide, potassium persulfate, ammonium persulfate.
- 5. Process of Claim 1 wherein compound (2) is a block copolymer of general structure (1) and the product is a tri- or multi-block copolymer.
 - 6. Process of Claim 1 employing a temperature above 100°C.
- 7. A composition consisting essentially of a polymer with a polydispersity
 30 <1.7, having the formula

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
CH_2 & V & X \\
CH_2 & CH_2 & CH_2
\end{array}$$

wherein:

Q is selected from the group H, R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

U is selected from H and R:

V is selected from R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂.

X is selected from H and R;

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Y is selected from R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

Z is selected from the group H, SR¹, S(O)R, S(O)₂R, R² and R³;

- R is selected from the group substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl and organosilyl groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from the group carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino and halogen;
 - R¹ is selected from the group H, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from the group carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino and halogen;
 - R² is selected from the group free radical initiator-derived fragments of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, sulfate groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from R, OR¹, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H (and salts), CO₂R, CN, CONH₂,

- R³ is selected from the group radical chain transfer agent-derived fragments of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, and PR₂ groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from R, OR¹, SR, NR₂, NHR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR, and CONR₂; m and n are independently ≥ 1; and
- when either or both of m and n are greater than 1, the repeat units are the same or different.
 - 8. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein the polydispersity is < 1.5.
- 9. A polymer made by the process of Claim 1.
 - 10. A polymer made by the process of Claim 5.

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TITLE POLYMER SYNTHESIS

1. Field f the Inventi n

This invention relates to a process for the synthesis of block copolymers and polymers of narrow polydispersity based on radical polymerization of monomers in the presence of unsaturated chain transfer agents.

2. Background

Block copolymers are useful as pigment dispersants, surfactants, compatibilizers for polymer blends, thermoplastic elastomers and in a variety of other applications. Polymers with narrow molecular weight dispersity can enhance melt viscosity behavior, solids-viscosity relationships of polymer solutions and sharper melt transitions than the same composition at a higher polydispersity.

Conventional commercial techniques for synthesizing narrow polydispersed polymers and block copolymers include free-radical polymerization. Radical polymerization may be accomplished: (1) through the use of pseudo or quasi-living polymerization. These techniques make use of low molecular weight transfer agents and/or chain terminators; (2) through the use of transformation chemistry; (3) through the use of multifunctional or polymeric initiators.

This invention provides a method of employing certain vinyl compounds in the synthesis of polymers with narrow molecular weight distribution and block copolymers by free radical polymerization. Block copolymerization by radical polymerization has been described in PCT Application No WO 93/22355. This PCT application describes the mechanism of block copolymer formation but does not define conditions necessary for the preparation of high purity block copolymers, nor formation of narrow polydispersity resins.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed to a process for the synthesis of polymers (block, homo- and copolymers) of the general formula:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} CH_2 & V & X \\ V & CH_2 & CH_2 \\ V & m & V \end{array}$$

comprising contacting:

(i) a vinyl m nomer of the formula

$$CH_2 = CUV$$

(ii) a vinyl-terminated compound of formula

$$- \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{Y} \end{array} \right)_{\mathbf{n}}^{\mathbf{Z}}$$

and

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(iii) free radicals, produced from a free radical source; and increasing the molar amount of polymers, 1, by one or both of:

- (a) decreasing the molar amount of (iii) for any given conversion of (i); and
- (b) decreasing the molar amount of (i) for any given conversion of (iii); wherein:

Q is selected from the group H, R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

U is selected from H and R;

V is selected from R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂.

X is selected from H and R;

Y is selected from R, OR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR and CONR₂;

Z is selected from the group H, SR¹, S(O)R, S(O)₂R, R² and R³;

R is selected from the group substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl and organosilyl groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from the group carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino and halogen;

R¹ is selected from the group H, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from the group carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino and halogen;

R² is selected from the group free radical initiator-derived fragments of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, sulfate groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from R, OR¹, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H (and salts), CO₂R, CN, CONH₂,

R³ is selected from the group radical chain transfer agent-derived fragments of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, organosilyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, and PR₂ groups wherein the substituent(s) are independently selected from R, OR¹, SR, NR₂, NHR, O₂CR, halogen, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, CONH₂, CONHR, and CONR₂:

m and n are independently ≥ 1 ; and

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when either or both of m and n are greater than 1, the repeat units are the same or different.

Each alkyl in the defined substituents is independently selected from branched, unbranched, and cyclical hydrocarbons having 1 to 20, preferably 1-12, and most preferably 1-8 carbon atoms; halo or halogen refers to bromo, iodo, chloro and fluoro, preferably chloro and fluoro, and organosilyl includes $-\operatorname{SiR}^4(R^5)(R^6)$ and the like, wherein R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are independently alkyl, phenyl, alkyl ether, or phenyl ether, preferably at least two of R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 being a hydrolyzable group, more preferably two of which are alkyl ether, wherein alkyl is preferably methyl or ethyl. A plurality of silyl groups can be condensed; for example, an organopolysiloxane such as $-\operatorname{Si}(R^4)_2$ -O-Si(R^5)₂ R^6 , wherein R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are independently alkyl.

Preferred monomers are methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate (all isomers), butyl methacrylate (all isomers), 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, isobornyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, benzyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, methacrylonitrile, alpha methyl styrene, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate (all isomers), butyl acrylate (all isomers), 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate, acrylic acid, benzyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, styrene, functional methacrylate, acrylates and styrene selected from glycidyl methacrylate, 2hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate (all isomers), hydroxybutyl methacrylate (all isomers), diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, triethyleneglycol methacrylate, itaconic anhydride, itaconic acid, glycidyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate (all isomers), hydroxybutyl acrylate (all isomers), diethylaminoethyl acrylate, triethyleneglycol acrylate, methacrylamide, N-tert-butyl methacrylamide, N-n-butyl methacrylamide, N-methyl-ol methacrylamide, N-ethyl-ol methacrylamide, N-tert-butyl acrylamide, N-n-butyl acrylamide, N-methyl-ol acrylamide, N-ethyl-ol acrylamide, vinyl benzoic acid (all isomers), diethylamino styrene (all isomers), alphamethylvinyl benzoic acid (all isomers), diethylamino alphamethylstyrene (all isomers), para-methylstyrene, p-vinyl benzene sulfonic acid. trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate,

tributoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, diethoxymethyl-silylpropylmethacrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl methacrylate,

diisopropoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, trimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate,
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 diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate,
 diethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxysilylpropyl
 acrylate, vinyl acetate, and vinyl butyrate, vinyl chloride, vinyl fluoride, vinyl bromide.

In a preferred process, (ii) is selected where Q, -XYC-CH₂- and Z are independently selected from one or more of the following:

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- Q = H, methyl, ethyl, butyl (all isomers), cyclohexyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy (all isomers), phenoxy, acetate, propionate, butyrate (all isomers), benzoate, carboxylate, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, nitrile, amide, N-methylamide, N-ethylamide, N-propylamide, N,N-dimethylamide, N,N-diethylamide, N,N-dibutylamide, N-methyl-N-ethylamide, carboxylate ester of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl (all isomers), benzyl, phenyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 4-hydroxy-butyl (all isomers), 3-hydroxybutyl (all isomers), 2-hydroxybutyl, 3-triiethoxysilylpropyl, 3-triiethoxysilylpropyl, 3-triiethoxysilylpropyl, 2-aminoethyl, 3-amino-propyl, 2-aminopropyl, 4-aminobutyl (all isomers), 3-aminobutyl (all isomers), 2-aminobutyl (all isomers), 2-epoxypropyl, or 3-
- epoxypropyl; -XYC-CH₂- = derived from one or more of the following monomers: methyl 25 methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate (all isomers), butyl methacrylate (all isomers), 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, isobornyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, benzyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, methacrylonitrile, styrene, alpha methyl styrene, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate (all isomers), hydroxybutyl 30 methacrylate (all isomers), diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, triethyleneglycol methacrylate, N-tert-butyl methacrylamide, N-n-butyl methacrylamide, Nmethyl-ol methacrylamide, N-ethyl-ol methacrylamide, trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, tributoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, 35 diethoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl methacrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate,

dibutoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, diisopropoxysilylpropyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate (all isomers), butyl acrylate (all isomers), 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate, acrylic acid, benzyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, styrene, glycidyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate (all isomers), hydroxybutyl acrylate (all isomers), diethylaminoethyl acrylate, triethyleneglycol acrylate, N-tert-butyl acrylamide, N-n-butyl acrylamide, N-methyl-ol acrylamide, N-ethyl-ol acrylamide, vinyl benzoic acid (all isomers), diethylamino styrene (all isomers), p-vinyl benzene sulfonic acid, para-methylstyrene, trimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, triethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, tributoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, dimethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diethoxysilylpropyl acrylate, dibutoxysilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxymethylsilylpropyl acrylate, diisopropoxysilylpropyl acrylate, vinyl acetate, or vinyl butyrate;

15 $Z = H_1 SR^1, S(O)R_1, S(O)_2R_1, R^2, \text{ or } R^3;$

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- R = methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, phenyl, benzyl, 2-phenylpropyl, trimethoxysilylpropyl, tributoxysilyl-propyl, hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 2-epoxypropyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-aminopropyl, methoxymethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl, 2-methoxy-propyl, or heptafluoropropyl;
- R¹ = hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, phenyl, benzyl, 2-phenylpropyl, trimethoxysilyl-propyl, tributoxysilylpropyl, hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 2-epoxypropyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-aminopropyl, methoxymethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl, 2-methoxypropyl, or heptafluoropropyl;
- R² = 2,4-dimethylpentanenitrile, 2-methylbutanenitrile, 2-methylpropanenitrile, cyclohexanecarbonitrile, 4-cyanopentanoic acid, N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine hydrochloride, 2-methyl-n-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)ethyl] propionamide, 2-methyl-N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] propionamide, 2-methyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl) propionamide, isobutyamide hydrate, hydroxyl, or sulfate;
- R³ = 1,1-bis(carboethoxy)ethyl, 1,1-bis(carbomethoxy)ethyl, bis(carboethoxy)methyl, bis(carbomethoxy)methyl, 1-carboethoxy-1-phenyl ethyl, 1-carbomethoxy-1-phenyl ethyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, 1-methyl-1[carbo(2-epoxypropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(2-hydroxyethoxy)]ethyl, 1methyl-1-[carbo(4-hydroxy-butoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(2aminoethoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(3-trimethoxysilylpropoxy)]ethyl, 1-

methyl-1-[carbo(3-triethoxysilylpropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(3-dimethoxyethoxysilylpropoxy)]ethyl, 1-methyl-1-[carbo(2-meth xyethoxy)]ethyl, (N,N-di-methylamino)(cyano)methyl, N,N-dimethylamino-(benzo)methyl, thiomethyl(cyano)methyl, or thioethyl(cyano)methyl.

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In a preferred process, (iii) is derived from one or more of the following initiators: 2,2'-azobis(isobutyronitrile), 2,2'-azobis(2-butanenitrile), 4,4'-azobis(4-cyanpentanoic acid), 1,1'-azobis(cyclohexane-carbonitrile), 2-(t-butylazo)-2-cyanopropane, 2,2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-(1,1)-bis(hydoxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] propionamide, 2,2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-hydroxyethyl)]-propionamide, 2,2'-azobis(N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine) dichloride, 2,2'-azobis(2-amidinopropane) dichloride, 2,2'-azobis(N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramide), 2,2'-azobis(2-methyl-N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] propionamide), 2,2'-azobis(2-methyl-N-[1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl) ethyl] propionamide), 2,2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl) propionamide], 2,2'-azobis(isobutyramide) dihydrate, t-butyl-peroxyacetate, t-butylperoxybenzoate, t-butylperoxyoctoate, t-butylperoxyneodecanoate, t-butylperoxyisobutyrate, t-amylperoxypivalate, t-butylperoxypivalate, cumene hydroperoxide, dicumyl peroxide, benzoyl peroxide, potassium persulfate, ammonium persulfate.

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DETAILS OF THE INVENTION

Compound (2) can be prepared by several methods. Two non-restrictive examples of convenient methods of preparing compounds of structure (2) are by free radical polymerization in the presence of cobalt transfer agents or organic transfer agents that are capable of chain transfer by addition fragmentation. Cobalt chain transfer agents represent a broad class of complexes some of which are described in U.S. Patent No. 4,694,054, U.S. Patent No. 4,680,352, U.S. Patent No. 4,722,984, and WO 87/03605.

and WO 87/03605.

Organic chain transfer agents include allylic sulfides, allylic bromides, vinyl terminated methacrylic oligomers (dimers, trimers, etc or distributions), amethylstyrene dimer and related compounds. Other methods of preparation are also possible.

Said compounds of structure (2) can also be a block copolymer of general structure (1) and the process can then be used to form tri- or multiblock copolymers.

Substituent Q of (1) and (2) is chosen to convey appropriate reactivity to the double bond in radical polymerization of the desired monomer or monomers under polymerization conditions. It should preferably be aryl, CO₂H, CO₂R, CN, or

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CONR₂ in the case of activated mon mers (e.g. styrene, acrylics) or H, R, OR, O₂CR, or halogen in the case of non activated monomers (e.g. vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride).

The substituents Q and Z can also be chosen so as to introduce any required end-group functionality int the polymer (1). These end groups can be the same or different and are chosen such that the final polymer is a telechelic polymer. Suitable end groups are those compatible with free radical polymerization and include epoxy, hydroxy, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester.

Monomers, CH₂=CUV, as used herein include acrylic, methacrylic and styrenic monomers, mixtures thereof, and mixtures of these monomers with other monomers. As one skilled in the art would recognize, the choice of comonomers is determined by the steric and electronic properties of the monomer. The factors which determine copolymerizability of various monomers is well documented in the art.

When U and/or X= hydrogen, the use of reaction temperatures above 100°C has been found to favor block copolymer formation.

The process is compatible with forming (2) and the polymer (1) sequentially in a "one-pot" procedure. In this case, it is important to destroy residual transfer agent remaining from the synthesis of (2). For compounds (2) prepared in the presence of cobalt catalytic chain transfer agents, the use of potassium persulfate, a peroxide or similar reagent deactivates any cobalt chain transfer agent remaining from the compound (2) preparation.

The length of the $-(CXY-CH_2)_n$ is determined by the molecular weight of (2). Unreacted (2) will constitute a contaminant. The conversion level of (2) will define the purity of (1). The higher the conversion of (2) the higher the purity of (1).

To obtain narrow dispersity in the final polymer, reaction conditions are selected such that polymerization in the absence of (2) gives molecular weights substantially higher (at least 5-fold) than in the presence of (2). In the same manner, to obtain high block purity in the block copolymer synthesis, reaction conditions are selected such that polymerization in the absence of compound (2) gives molecular weights substantially higher (at least 5-fold) than in the presence of compound (2).

With this as a guide, the control of the molar amount of free radicals (iii) at any given conversion of (i) will determine how much polymer containing (i) and not (2) is formed. One can minimize the number of free radicals, via initiators, in the reaction media during the polymerization so that bimolecular termination reactions, or radical-radical reactions, are minimized. These reactions produce polymers that are undesirable when one is interested in narrow dispersity polymers or substantually pure block copolymers. Increasing the moles of (ii) in the presence of (iii) will enhance the transfer reaction which is necessary to produce block, telechelic polymers and homopolymers of narrow molecular weight dispersity. In like fashion, reducing the

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molar amount f monomer (i) in the reactor at any given time at any given conversi n of (iii), will provide additional control thus assuring uptake of (ii) as a transfer agent. SI w, incremental uptake of (i) under conditions which ptimize chain transfer contribute to narrow polydispersity. The present invention allows preparation f homo- and copolymers with substantially narrower polydispersity than can be prepared by conventional free radical polymerization. Polymers with polydispersity <1.5 are not available using conventional free radical polymerization technology. The discovered interrelationship of (a) to (d) allows preparation of polymers with polydispersities below 1.7 and even less than 1.5.

The process can be successfully conducted by bulk, solution, suspension or emulsion polymerization. However, bearing in mind the above-mentioned condition, a preferred process for forming high molecular weight block copolymers is by emulsion or dispersion polymerization techniques. Emulsion polymerization typically offers very high molecular weights for polymerization carried out in the absence of compound (2). As a consequence, it is possible to prepare high molecular weight, high purity block copolymers with narrow polydispersity. Other advantages of emulsion polymerization over solution or bulk polymerization are faster polymerization times, high conversions, avoidance of organic solvents, and low chain transfer to water.

The present process offers significant advantages over other processes for preparing block or narrow polydispersity polymers based on conventional living polymerization techniques (e.g. cationic, anionic, coordination or group transfer polymerization). Advantages include compatibility with monomers with active hydrogens (for example, methacrylic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, etc.), or reactive functionality (for example, glycidyl methacrylate), the use of protic media (for example, isopropanol, water), and use of inexpensive commercial grade monomers.

The success of block copolymerization via the emulsion process depends on the compatibility of the monomer(s) and compound (2). The polymerization of hydrophobic monomers (e.g. butyl methacrylate) and moderately hydrophobic compounds (2) (e.g. methyl methacrylate), or moderately hydrophobic monomers with hydrophilic compounds (2) (e.g. methacrylic acid) can be successfully carried out.

Emulsion polymerization of hydrophobic monomers (for example, styrene, butyl methacrylate, etc.) in the presence of water-soluble compounds (2) may lead to product contaminated with homopolymer of the hydrophobic monomers. In these circumstances, addition of appropriate cosolvents (for example, 2-butoxyethanol) to the emulsion polymerization medium gives improved yields of block copolymer.

Changing the hydrophobic-hydrophilic balance in the compound (2) also gives improved yield of block copolymer. For example, block copolymers based on

hydrophobic monomers (for example, styrene, butyl methacrylate, etc.) and 60:40 methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid compounds (2) are readily synthesized in high yield and purity by emulsion polymerization.

The low cost of the process means that purification of the block cop lymer can be economically viable when this is necessary or desirable. Thus, lower yields of block copolymers can be tolerated than with other synthetic methods.

The process of the invention is further illustrated by the following Examples in which these abbreviations are used:

	ALTERIA FILORO CO		
•		EHMA	2-ethylhexyl methacylate
10		n-BA	n-butyl acrylate
		BAc	butyl acetate
		EAc	ethyl acetate
		GMA	glycidyl methacrylate
		n-BMA	n-butyl methacrylate
15		t-BMA	tert-butyl methacylate
		i-BMA	iso-butyl methacrylate
		BzMA	benzyl methacrylate
		EMA	ethyl methacrylate
		HEMA	hydroxyethyl methacylate
20		iPrOH	2-propanol
•		MAA	methacrylic acid
		MEK	methylethyl ketone
		MMA	methyl methacrylate
٠		PhMA	phenyl methacrylate
25		S .	styrene
		pMS	p-methylstyrene
		CHMA .	cyclohexyl methacrylate
		VAZO 52	2,2'-azobis(2,4dimethylpentanenitrile)
		VAZO 88	1,1'-azobis(cyclohexanecarbonitrile)
30		WAKO VA044	2,2'-azobis(N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine)
			dihydrochloride
		iprCo(III)DMG	[bis[m-[(2,3-butanedione dioximato)(2-)-O:O]]
			tetrafluorodiborato (2-) -N,N',N",N"] (1-
	•		methylethyl) (aqua) cobalt
35		MeCo(III)DEG	[bis[m-[(2,3-hexanedione dioximato)(2-)-O:O]]
			tetrafluorodiborato (2-) -N,N',N",N""] (methyl)
			(aqua) cobalt

EXAMPLES 1-9

Methacrylic Acid Block Copolymers by Emulsion Polymerization

This is the basic recipe for surfactantless emulsion polymerization and illustrates the use of block copolymers as latex stabilizers.

Preparation of Methacrylic Acid-block-Methyl Methacrylate

	Water	75.0 g
	NaHCO ₃	0.151 g
10	MAA ₁₂ -block-BMA ₄	0.376 g
	MAA Compound 2 (1 H NMR: \bar{M}_{n} 950)	10.07 g
	MMA .	1.00 g
	4,4' azobis(4-cyanopentanoic acid)	0.140 g
	MMA	10.0 g

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The water was degassed in a multi-neck, 250 mL reactor under nitrogen for 20 min. The solution was heated to 85°C. The sodium bicarbonate, block copolymer and MAA Compound 2 were added, and the solution was degassed for a further 10 min. The initiator and a portion of the MMA (1.00 g) were added as single shots and the remaining MMA added as a feed over 90 min. The reaction mixture was held at 85°C for a further 90 min.

GPC: \overline{M}_n 3010, \overline{M}_w 4270; Dispersity 1.42.

The yield of block copolymer vs. 'homopolymer' formed by emulsion polymerization depends on the relative hydrophobicity of the compound (2) and monomer. The examples given in the table show that, for systems where this is a problem (e.g. MAA-block-BMA), the yield of block copolymer are improved by use of an appropriate cosolvent.

Table 1. Methacrylic Acid Block Copolymers by Emulsion Polymerization^a

	Example	Monomer	Cosolvent	% block ^b
	1	MMA	none	100
	2	EMA	none	70
5	3	nBMA	none	45
	4	nBA	none	20
	5	MMA/BMA 1:2	none	50
	6	MMA/BMA 2:1	none	60
	7	MMA//BMA triblock (1:2)	none	60
10	8	nBMA	10 % 2-ethoxyethanol ^C	60
	9	nBMA	10 % 2-butoxyethanoi ^C	100

^aMethacrylic acid macomonomer (¹H NMR: M_n 950).

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EXAMPLES 10 - 14

Methacrylate Ester Based Block Copolymers

Preparation of Phenyl Methacrylate-block-Butyl Methacrylate

20 A. Preparation of PhMA compound (2)

		Water	75 g
		SDS (1 wt% aq. solution)	3 g
		4,4'-azobis(4-cyanopentanoic acid)	0.140 g
	Monomer Shot:	PhMA	3.5 g
25		MeCo(III)DEG	15.0 mg
	Monomer Feed:	PhMA	31.7 g
		MeCo(III)DEG	11.8 mg

The water, initiator and SDS were combined and degassed under nitrogen in a multi-necked 250 mL reactor. The mixture was heated to 80°C and the monomer shot added immediately. The monomer feed was added over 90 min. The temperature was increased to 85°C and held for a further 90 min.

GPC: \overline{M}_n 1100 \overline{M}_w 2400; Dispersity 2.18.

bEstimated by GPC. Remainder is 'B block' homopolymer

Feed time increased to 270 min

B. Preparation f PhMA-block-BMA

PhMA compound (2) latex (33% solids)*

Initiator Feed: K₂S₂O₈ (0.2 wt% aq. solution)

Monomer Feed: nBMA

60 g

Monomer Feed: nBMA 5 a. 0-90:

a. 0-90 min 0.25 mL/min b. 90-180 min 0.50 mL/min

*from Part A

The PhMA compound (2) latex (M_n 1100, M_w 2400; Dispersity 2.18) was heated to 80°C in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor under nitrogen for 50 min. The initiator and monomer feeds were added concurrently over 180 min. Portions of SDS (1 g of a 10 wt% aqueous solution) were added hourly during the monomer addition. After monomer addition was complete the reaction temperature was increased to 85°C and held for a further 90 min.

15 GPC: \bar{M}_n 14500, \bar{M}_w 33400; Dispersity 2.30

Table 2. Methacrylic Ester Block Copolymers prepared by Emulsion Polymerization

	Example	Compound	2 Monomer	Block Composition ^a	M _n b	Dispersity
	10	PhMA	nBMA	(PhMA)7//(nBMA)94	14500	2.30
20	11	MAA	MMA	(MAA)11//(MMA)14 ^C	3010	1.42
	12	MAA	nBMAd	(MAA)11//(nBMA)22	4030	2.31
	13	MMA	пВМА	(MMA)19//(nBMA)46	6700	1.19
	14	tBMA	nBMA	(tBMA)17//(nBMA)24	5780	1.33

*estimated from GPC

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EXAMPLES 15 - 19

Narrow Polydispersity Polymers

These examples illustrate the preparation of a polymer of relatively narrow polydispersity by emulsion polymerization. Polydispersities (> 1.5) are narrower than expected by normal polymerization with chain transfer (2.0). The polydispersity typically narrows with increased monomer addition as shown in Table 3. To achieve narrow polydispersities it is necessary to control the rate of monomer addition to maintain relatively high % solids (typically in range 70-95%) and a constant monomer concentration.

²⁵ bGPC (polystyrene equivalents)

cestimated from ¹H NMR

d₁₀ % 2-butoxyethanol (see Table 1)

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Preparation f Methyl Methacrylate-block-Butyl Methacrylate

Preparation f MMA c mpound (2)

		Water	150 g
		SDS (3 wt% aq. soluti n)	6 g
5		4,4'-azobis(4-cyanopentanoic acid)	0.280 g
	Monomer Shot:	MMA	7 g
		MeCo(III)DEG	5 mg
	Monomer Feed:	MMA	63.4 g
		MeCo(III)DEG	2.3 mg

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The water, initiator and SDS were combined and degassed under nitrogen in a multi-necked 250 mL reactor. The mixture was heated to 80°C and the monomer shot added immediately. The monomer feed was added over 90 min. The temperature was increased to 85°C and held for a further 90 min.

 \overline{M}_n 3500 \overline{M}_w 5600; Dispersity 1.61. 15 GPC:

> \bar{M}_{n} 3100 ¹H NMR:

Preparation of MMA-block-BMA B.

	MMA compound (2) latex (33 % solids)*	30 g
	K2S2O8 (0.4wt % aq. solution)	28.4 mL/90 min
l:	пВМА	20 g/90 min

20 Monomer Feed:

*from Part A

Initiator Feed:

The MMA compound (2) was heated to 80°C in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor 25 under nitrogen for 30 min. The initiator and monomer feeds were added concurrently over 90 min. The monomer and initiator additions were then repeated until a total of 100 g BMA was added. Portions of SDS (1 g of a 3 wt% aqueous solution) were added hourly during the monomer addition. After monomer addition was complete the reaction temperature was increased to 85°C and held for 90 min.

GPC: \bar{M}_n 23800, \bar{M}_w 33100; Dispersity 1.39 30

Table 3: Variation in Molecular Weight and Polydispersity with Monomer Addition (compound (2) = PMMA)

	Example	Monomer	monomer (g)	Mn ^a	M _w /M _n	M _n (calc) ^b
	15	BMA	0	3500 (3100°)	1.6	
5			20	8300 (9700)	1.5	9300
			40	13200 (15400)	1.4	15500
			60	17700 (20100)	1.3	21700
			80	20000 (23600)	1.3	27900
			100	23800 (28100)	1.4	34500
10						
	16	MMA	0	1850 (2100)	1.5	
			15.8	3800 (4320)	1.4	4800
			24.2	4770 (5300)	1.4	6300
			31.6	5740 (6500)	1.5	7700
15			63.1	9790 (11200)	2.7	13500
	17	MMA	0	3260 (3700)	1.5	
	• ,	,112121	11.8	9900 (11300)	1.4	10900
			19.0	13700 (15700)	1.5	15600
20			35.2	22100 (25300)	1.6	26200
			52.9	31300 (35900)	1.8	37700
			65.8	37600 (43200)	2.1	46100
					•	
	18	BMA	0	2000 ^C	1.6	
25			25.7	6700 (7900)	1.2	8000
			33.6	8400 (9900)	1.2	9900
		•	50.3	12300 (14500)	1.2	13800
			59.8	14900 (17600)	1.2	16100
			67.1	16800 (19800)	1.2	17800
30			88.2	18400 (21700)	1.4	22800
	20	ЕНМА	0	2050 ^C	1.7	
			20	4900	1.5	4800
			40	7100	1.4	7600
35			60	10500	1.3	10400
			78	11800	1.3	12900

*GPC molecular weight in polystyrene equivalents (values obtained by applying universal calibration in parentheses). Numbers rounded to nearest hundred.

bMn=([monomer]/[compound (2)] x monomer Mn) + compound (2) Mn. Discrepancies between calculated and found Mn may reflect precision of compound (2) concentration.

cMn of PMMA.

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EXAMPLES 20 - 21

Triblock Copolymers

These examples illustrate the synthesis of an ABA triblock copolymer. The procedure is compatible with at 'one-pot' operation.

10 Preparation of MMA-block-BMA-block-MMA.

A. Preparation of MMA-block-BMA

			MMA compound (2) latex*	30 g
			SDS (3 wt% aq. solution)	1 g
	Initiator Feed:	(0.316 mL/min)	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (0.36wt % aq. solution)	40.8 g
15	Monomer Feed:	(0.218 mL/min)	nBMA	25.2 g

(*ca. 32 % solids, \overline{M}_n 2040, Dispersity 1.51, prepared with iPrCo(III)DMG procedure similar to Example 15, part A)

The MMA compound (2) latex and SDS was placed in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor, degassed under vacuum, then heated to 80°C under nitrogen. The initiator and monomer feeds were added concurrently over 130 min. After monomer addition was complete the reaction was held at 80°C for 90 min. A shot of surfactant was added (1g of 3 wt% aq. solution of SDS) at 60 min intervals.

25 GPC: M_n 6650, M_w 8400; Dispersity 1.26.

B. Preparation of MMA-block-BMA-block-MMA

			MMA-block-BMA compound (2) latex*	30 g
			SDS (3 wt% aq. solution)	1 g
	Initiator Feed:	(0.316 mL/min)	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (0.36wt % aq. solution)	21.5 g
30	Monomer Feed:	(0.119 mL/min)	MMA	7.5 g
	(*ca 32 % solids	from part A)		

The MMA compound (2) latex and SDS was placed in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor, degassed under vacuum, then heated to 80°C under nitrogen. The initiator and monomer feeds were added concurrently over 68 min. After monomer addition was complete the reaction was held at 80°C for 90 min. A shot of surfactant was

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added (1 g f 3wt % aq. solution f SDS) at 60 min intervals. The conversi n based n % solids was 98%.

GPC: \bar{M}_n 12660, \bar{M}_w 16590; Dispersity 1.35

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Table 4. Emulsion Triblock Copolymers

		Macro	monomer		Block		
Example	Step:Monomer	Composition	M _n a	Dispersity	M _n a	Dispersity	
20	1:BMA	MMA	2040	1.51	6650	1.26	
	2: MMA	MMA-block-BMA	6650	1.26	12660	1.35	
21	1:BMA	MMA	3500	1.62	23800	1.39	
	2:MMA	MMA-block-BMA	23800	1.39	26200	1.52	

^aGPC (polystryrene equivalents)

EXAMPLE 22

'One Pot' Synthesis of (MMA-co-MAA)-block-BMA

These examples illustrate a 'one-pot' synthesis of compound (2) and block 10 copolymer by emulsion polymerization.

	A. Preparati	on of MMA <i>-co</i> -MAA compound (2)
		Water	120.00 g
		MAA-block-BMA	2 87 g
15		· .	
	Solution 1:	iprCo(III)DMG	7.5 mg
		WAKO VA-044	0 33 g
		MMA .	4 0 g
20	Feed 1:	MMA	42.14 g
	•	iprCo(III)DMG	15.0 mg
	Feed 2:	MAA	15.60 g
		a. 0-20 min	0.137 mL/min
25		b. 20-40 min	0.276 mL/min
		c. 40-60 min	0.356 mL/min

The MAA-block-BMA(stabilizer/surfactant)/water mixture was heated to 58°C in a multi-necked 500 mL reactor under nitrogen for 30 min. Solution 1 was

added and the monomer feeds were added concurrently over 60 min. On completion f the monomer addition the reacti n temperature was increased slowly to 80°C.

GPC: \overline{M}_n 880, \overline{M}_w 1400; Dispersity 1.59

B. Preparation of (MMA-co-MAA)-block- BMA

5	_	MMA/MAA Compound 2 latex	from part A
		MAA-block-BMA	0.288 g
		water	9.3 g
		K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	0.224 g
10	Initiator Feed:	K2S2O8 (1.25% aq. solution)	28.4 mL
	Monomer Feed:	nBMA	12 g

The MMA/MAA compound (2) latex from Part A was held at 80°C for 40 min under nitrogen. MAA-b-BMA (surfactant) was added and the reactor degassed for a further 20 min. The initiator was then added as a single shot. The initiator and monomer feeds were added concurrently over 90 min. On completion of the feeds the reaction temperature was held at 80°C for 30 min and then increased to 85°C for 90 min.

20 GPC: \bar{M}_n 3090, \bar{M}_w 5370; Dispersity 1.74

EXAMPLES 23 - 36

Synthesis of block copolymers in solution

The following examples illustrate the synthesis of block copolymers from methacrylate compounds (2).

Preparation of (MMA-co-MAA) -block-BMA

	•	MMA-co-MAA Compound 2 (Mn 1031; Dispersity 1.53)) 10.0 g
		xylene	30.0 g
30		t-butyl peroxybenzoate	0.1 g
	Feed One:	n-butyl methacrylate	10.0 g
	Feed Two:	t-butyl peroxybenzoate	0.2 g
35		xylene	10.0 g

The compound (2) and initiat r were dissolved in the solvent and heated to reflux under nitrogen. The monomer and initiator feeds were added concurrently over 180 min. After completion of the feeds, the mixture was heated under reflux for a further 180 min.

5 Conversion:

> 95%.

GPC:

Mn 1890, Mw 2640; Dispersity 1.40

Table 5. Solution Block Copolymers from Methacylate Monomers

			•	Compound (2)			Blo	ck
Ex.	Mon.	Rª	Solvent	Composition	\bar{M}_n	Disp.	\bar{M}_n	Disp.
23	nBMA	46	iPrOH	MAA ₉	880 ^c	_	2400 d	1.50
24	nBMA	46	iPrOH	МАА9	880 ^c	_	30 50 d	1.53
25	nBMA	46	EtOH	MAAg-co-BMA5	1620 ^d	2.2	2320 d	2.47
26	BzMA	47	iPrOH	MMA ₂₀ -co-MAA ₅ e	2460 ^b	1.23	6020 ^b	1.63
27	BzMA	47	iPrOH	MMA10-co-MAA5	1600 ^b	1.71	5520b	1.80
28	BzMA	47	iPrOH	BMA ₁₀ -co-MAA ₅	2040 ^b	2.56	6070 ^b	1.69
29	BzMA	47	iPrOH	EHMA ₁₀ -co-MAA ₅	1900 ^b	1.62	4020b	1.61
30	MMA-BMA ^f	46	iPrOH	MAA9-co-BMA5	1620 ^d	2.2	2950d	1.81
31	MMA-BMA	46	iPrOH	MAA9-block-BMA5	2400 ^d	1.50	2790 d	1.85
32	MMA-BMA	46	iPrOH .	MAA	860 ^c	_	3060 b	1.64
33	MMA	46	iPrOH	HEMA ₁₁	1550 ^d	_	3620 d	1.83
34	MMA	48	xylene	MMA-co-MAA	1031b	1.53	2640 ^b	1.40
35	nBMA	23	xylene	MMA	890b	1.97	1340 ^b	1.78
36	MMA		BAc	MMA-co-MAA	1031b	1.53	2068 ^b	1.38

^aR = "recipe", similar to that of the Example referred to by number. All reactions were carried out at reflux. Conversions were typically >85%

10

EXAMPLES 37-45

Synthesis of block copolymers in solution

For monosubstituted monomers higher block purity is found when higher reaction temperatures are used. At low temperatures graft copolymer formation may

bGPC (polystyrene equivalents).

Cfrom NMR.

dGPC (PMMA equivalents).

^{*}Compound (2) prepared by emulsion polymerization.

f1:1 mole ratio comonomers.

dominate. Xylene and butyl acetate or other solvents with similar boiling point are preferred for block synthesese with monosubstituted monomers.

Preparation of (MMA-co-MAA)-block-BA

	Compound 2 (\overline{M}_n 1031; Dispersity 1.53)	8.88 g
5	Xylene	37.8 g
	t-butyl peroxybenzoate	0.1 g
	n-butyl acrylate	1.6 g
Feed:	t-butyl peroxybenzoate	0.16 g
10	n-butyl acrylate	9.5 g

The compound (2) and initiator were dissolved in the solvent and heated to reflux under nitrogen. The monomer and initiator feed was added over 180 min.

After completion of the feeds, the mixture was heated under reflux for a further 180 min.

Conversion:

> 95%.

GPC:

15

 \overline{M}_n 1760, \overline{M}_w 2710; Dispersity 1.54

Table 6. Solution Block Copolymers from Monosubstituted Monomers

				Compound (2)				Block	
Ex.	Mon.	Rª	Solvent	Composition	\bar{M}_n	Disp.	\bar{M}_n	Disp.	Purityb
37	BA	37	xylene	MMA-co-MAA	1031d	1.53	1760 ^d	1.54	>80%
38	BA	46	іРтОН	MAA9	880 ^C	-	2620 ^d	2.45	>50% ^e
39	BA	37	BAc	MMA-co-MAA	1031d	1.53	2683 ^d	1 76	>80%
40	BA	23	xylene	MMA	840d	1.97	2100 ^C	2 05	>70%
41	S	46	iPrOH	MA'A	880c	•	1890 ^d	2.10	>50% ^e
42	S	37	BAc	MMA	1640d	2.22	2530 ^d	2.37	>70%
43	S	37	BAc	nBMA	1050d	2.04	4650 ^d	2.79	>70%
44	S	37	BAc	tBMA	2620 ^d	2.62	3620 ^d	2.20	>70%
45	S	23	xylene	MMA	840d	1.97	1780 ^c	2.04	>70%

²⁰ aR = "recipe", similar to that of the Example referred to by number. All reactions were carried out at reflux. Conversions were typically >85%

bfrom comparison of GPC and NMR molecular weights

cfrom NMR

dGPC (polystyrene equivalents)

²⁵ evidence of reduced block copolymer formation

EXAMPLE 46

Preparation f MAA-block-BMA

	methacrylic acid Compound 2*	15 g
	isopropan 1	62.8 g
5	azobis(isobutyronitrile)	0.32 g
	acetone	2 mL

14.3 g Feed: n-butyl methacrylate

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The compound (2) and solvent were heated to reflux (ca. 80°C) under nitrogen. The initiator (dissolved in acetone) was added as a single shot and the monomer feed added over 180 min. After 90 min the initiator was replenished (0.16 g AIBN/ 1 mL acetone). After completion of feed the mixture was heated under reflux for a further 150 min.

Conversion: > 87 %

GPC: \bar{M}_n 2580, \bar{M}_w 4900; Dispersity 1.90.

20 **EXAMPLE 47**

This example shows the successful 20-fold scale up of Example 46.

Preparation of MAA-block-BMA

methacrylic acid compound (2)*	200 g
isopropanol	1000 mL
azobis(isobutyronitrile)	4.01 g

n-butyl methacrylate 326.1 g Feed: (1 mL/min)

*(Mn from NMR 1204).

30

25

The compound (2) and solvent were place in a 2 L multinecked flask equipped with mechanical stirrer, degassed, and heated to reflux (ca. 80°C) under nitrogen. The initiator was added as a single shot and the monomer feed commenced. At ca. 90 min intervals the initiator was replenished (2 g shots of AIBN). On completion of feed,

the mixture was heated under reflux for a further 150 min. 35

Conversion: > 95 %

 \overline{M}_n 3532, \overline{M}_w 5102; Dispersity 1.45 GPC:

^{*(}MAA compound (2) having Mn 1040 and Dispersity 1.80).

W 96/15157

PCT/US95/14428

EXAMPLE 48

This example illustrates the synthesis of hydrophilic-hydrophobic block copolymers based on methacylate ester-methacrylic acid copolymers by solution polymerization.

A. Preparation of MAA-co-BMA Compound (2)

		Isopropanol	20.06 g
		MAA	1.21 g
10		nBMA	3.86 g
		2,2'-azobis(2-butanenitrile)	0.25 g
	Shot:	IPrCo(III)DMG (0.35 wt% in isopropanol)	7.5 mL
15			0.140 g
15	Feed 1: (0.128 mL/min)	IPrCo(III)DMG (0.33 wt% in isopropanol)	30.7 mL
	Feed 2: (0.224 mL/min)	MAA	11.40 g
		nBMA	37. 85 g

20

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The isopropanol was degassed under nitrogen in a multi-necked 250 mL reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer. The monomers were then added and the mixture and heated to reflux (80°C). The shot was then added and the feeds added over 240 min by syringe pumps. Further initiator (0.125 g) was added at 120 min and 240 min. On completion of the feeds the temperature was held at 80°C for 90 min. The conversion based on % solids was > 85%.

NMR composition:

MAA5-co-BMA11

GPC(PMMA equivalents):

• \bar{M}_n 2040, \bar{M}_w 5210; Dispersity 2.56

B. Preparation of MAA-co-BMA-block-Benzyl Methacrylate

30	•	MAA-co-nBMA compound (2)			
	u.	solution* (60 wt% in isopropanol)	30.0 g		
		isopropanol	9.98 g		
		2,2'-azobis(2-butanenitrile)	0.092 g		
35	Feed: (0.202 mL/min)	BzMA	18.0 g		
		isopropanol	15.0 g		

^{*}from Part A

The compound (2) solution and isopropanol were placed in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor fitted with a mechanical stirrer, degassed then heated to 80°C under nitrogen. The initiat r was added and the monomer feed commenced and added over 180 min by syringe pump. Further aliquots of initiator were added at 90 min (0.049 g) and 180 min (0.087 g). The reaction was held at 80°C for a further 90 min. The conversion based on % solids was >94%.

NMR composition:

MAA5-co-BMA11-block-BzMA20

GPC(PMMA equivalents):

 \bar{M}_{n} 6070, \bar{M}_{w} 9770; Dispersity 1.61

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EXAMPLE 49

This example illustrates the synthesis of a hydrophilic-hydrophobic block copolymer based on HEMA by solution polymerization.

A. Preparation of Hydroxyethyl Methacrylate Compound (2)

15		Water	75 g
	Shot:	НЕМА	3.5 g
		iPrCo(III)DMG	4 mg
		4,4'-azobis(4-cyanopentanoic acid)	0.140 g
20			
	Feed:	HEMA	31.7 g
		iPrCo(III)DMG	4.4 mg

The water was degassed under nitrogen in a multi-necked 250 mL reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer and heated to 80°C. The initial shot was then added and the momomer feed was added over 90 min by syringe pump. On completion of the feed further initiator (0.070 g) was added and the temperature was held at 80°C for 180 min. The conversion based on % solids was > 90%. NMR: M

1550

30 B. Preparation of Hydroxyethyl Methacrylate-block-Methyl Methacrylate

HEMA compound (2) solution (30% in water)*	30 g
isopropanol	40 g
azobisisobuyronitrile	0.19 g

35 Monomer Feed: HEMA 15.5 g

from Part A

The HEMA compound (2) and isopropanol were placed in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor fitted with a mechanical stirrer, degassed under vacuum, then heated to 80°C under nitrogen. The initiat r was added and the mon mer feed commenced and added over 120 min by syringe pump. Further aliquots of initiator were added at 90 min (0.09 g) and 180 min (0.07 g). The reaction was held at 80°C for a further 90 min. The conversion based on % solids was > 90%.

 M_n 3620, M_w 6650; Dispersity 1.83 GPC:

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EXAMPLES 50-52

This procedure illustrates the preparation of blocks from compounds (2) prepared with addition-fragmentation transfer agents in emulsion polymerization. Use of these reagents allows a wide range of end-group functionality to be introduced into the final product.

The recipe is compatible with a one-pot synthesis of block-copolymer from transfer agent and monomers.

Preparation of Methyl Methacrylate-block-Butyl Methacrylate

	\prec	CH ₂ —S—C(CH ₃) ₃		CH2—S—C(CH3)3
	ď	CO ₂ Et		Ph (5)
		(4)		(5)
	A.	Preparation of M	MA compound (2)	
20			Water	37.5 g
			SDŞ (3 % aq. solution)	3 g
	Shot:		MMA	1.56 g
	•		allyi sulfide 4	0.078 g
25			4,4'-azobis(4-cyanopentanoic acid)	0.071 g
	Feed	1: (0.188 mL/min)	MMA	14.04 g

5 g 30 Feed 2: (0.188 mL/min) **MMA**

allyl sulfide 4

0.668 g

The water, SDS were combined and degassed under vacuum in a multi-necked 250 mL reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer. The mixture was heated to 80° C under nitrogen and the shot added. Feed 1 was added over 80 min by syringe pump. Feed 2 was then added ver 28 min. On completion f the feeds the temperature was held at 80° C for a further 90 min. The conversion based on % solids was 98%. GPC: $\overline{M}_{\rm B}$ 5520 $\overline{M}_{\rm W}$ 8770; Dispersity 1.59.

B. Preparation of MMA-block-BMA.

		MMA compound (2) latex (ca. 32 % solids)*	27.1 g
10		SDS (3 % aq. solution)	1.0 g
	Initiator Feed: (0.316 mL/min)	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (0.36 wt % aq. solution)	23.7 g
15	Monomer Feed: (0.218 mL/min)	nBMA	15.5 g

from Part A

20

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The MMA compound (2) latex and SDS was placed in a multi-neck 250 mL reactor, degassed under vacuum, then heated to 80°C under nitrogen. The initiator and monomer feeds were added concurrently over 70 min. After monomer addition was complete the reaction was held at 80°C for 90 min. The conversion based on % solids was 98%.

GPC: $\bar{M}_{\rm p}$ 12600, $\bar{M}_{\rm w}$ 17200; Dispersity 1.36

Table 7. Block Copolymers by Emulsion Polymerization

		Transfer	Con	ipound (2)	Bl	Block	
Example	Monomer	Agenta	Composition	Mnb	Disp.	M_n^b	Disp.
50	nBMA	4	MMA	5520	1.59	12600	1.36
51	MMA	4	nBMA	5300	1.57	7300	1.43
52	nBMA	5 c	MMA	5450	1.57	24700	1.46

^{*}Compound (2) prepared with addition-fragmentation transfer agent indicated.

EXAMPLES 53 - 56

This procedure illustrates the preparation of blocks from compounds (2) prepared with addition-fragmentation transfer agents by solution polymerization. Use

bGPC (polystyrene equivalents).

^cCompound (2) synthesis carried out at 90°C

of these reagents allows a wide range f monomers to be used and permits various end-group functionality to be introduced into the final product.

Preparation of Styrene-block-p-methylstyrene

A. Preparation of Styrene c mpound (2)

5		Styrene	30.10 g
		Butyl acetate	10.03 g
		allyl sulfide 4	1.63 g
	Feed 1: (0.210 mL/min)	Styrene	39.98 g
10		allyl sulfide 4	6.67 g
	Feed 2: (0.063 mL/min)	1,1'-azobis(4-cyclohexanecarbonitrile)	0.283 g
		Butyl acetate	20.01 g

The styrene solution was degassed under nitrogen in a multi-necked 250 mL reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer. The mixture was heated to reflux (125°C) under nitrogen and the feeds added over 240 min by syringe pump. The compound (2) was isolated by two precipitations into acidified methanol. The conversion based on isolated compound (2) was 50%.

20 GPC: \bar{M}_n 1880 \bar{M}_w 2950; Dispersity 1.57.

B. Preparation of Styrene-block-p-Methylstyrene.

	• •	
	Styrene compound (2)*	4.02 g
	Butyl acetate	3.53 g
	p-Methylstyrene	0.46 g
Initiator Feed: (0.0177 mL/min)	1,1'-azobis(4-cyclohexanecarbonitrile)	0.108 g
	Butyl acetate	25.13 g
Monomer Feed: (0.0132 mL/min)	p-Methylstyrene	19.01 g

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The styrene compound (2) and butyl acetate were placed in a multi-neck 100 mL reactor under nitrogen and heated to reflux (ca. 125°C). After 10 min, the pmethylstyrene was added. The initiator and monomer feeds were then commenced and added over 24 h. The conversion based on monomer consumption was 84%. GPC: \bar{M}_n 9500, \bar{M}_w 24620; Dispersity 2.59 (includes compound (2) peak)

from Part A

Table 8. Styrene Block Copolymers by Soluti n Polymerization

		Transfer	Compo	Compound (2) Block				
Example	Monomer	Agent ^a	Mnb	Disp.	Mnb	Disp.	Solvent	% Conv.c
53	pMS	4	1880	1.59	17260	1.61	BAc	90
54	nBMA	4	1880	1.59	9120	1.43	MEK	80
55	nBMA	4	1880	1.59	17930	1.62	BAc	60
56	nBMA	5	2330	1.55	16870	1.42	MEK	50

^aCompound (2) prepared with addition-fragmentation transfer agent indicated.

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EXAMPLES 57 - 64

These examples describe a generalized process for the preparation of narrow polydispersity block copolymers and homopolymers by solution polymerization using vinyl compounds (2) selected from methacrylate dimers and trimers.

The general procedure for the polymerization is to slowly add the selected monomer(s), (i), and free radical initiator (iii) to the unsaturated transfer agent (2) at a rate to avoid excessive buildup in monomer concentration. A small amount of monomer(s) can be added to the transfer agent before the start of polymerization.

The polymerization reaction is started by heating the reactor containing (2) to the desired temperature and starting the gradual and continuous feeds of monomer(s) and free radical initiator.

The length of the polymerization time is dependant upon the temperature chosen and the molecular weight of the polymer desired. Higher temperatures allow for faster monomer feed rates and shortened times.

The choice for initiator depends upon the temperature used. It is convenient to add the initiator either in a solvent or mixed with some of the monomer(s) by means of a controlled rate feeder pump. When no solvent is used, the polymerization runs under bulk conditions at a well controlled rate.

In this process, the amount of initiator does not limit the polymer molecular weight. Reaction of unsaturated ends of (2) controls the degree of polymerization. The total number of moles of free radical initiator is generally set to be less than 15-20% of the number of moles of (2) used in the process.

The following Tables illustrate some of the specific polymers and

bGPC (polystyrene equivalents).

capprox conversion of compound (2) to block. Monomer conversion is >85%.

their conditions for polymerization which have been practiced using this procedure.

Table 9: Solution Process C nditions

Ex.	Vinyl Transfer Agent	Monomer(s)	Temp. °C	Initiator	Polymeriz. Time hr	Comments
57	MMA ₃	MMA 500 gm	60	VAZO 52 4.29 gm 300 mi EAc	29.8	25 gm MMA at start
58	MMA ₃	30:70 GMA/CHMA		VAZO 52 13.1 gm		36 gm monomer mix
59	90 gm MMA3	1400 gm GMA	60	386 ml EAc VAZO 52	30	at start 16 gm GMA at start
	50 gm	322 gm 50:50 MMA/BMA 710 gm	60	10.4 gm 290 ml EAc	29.4	add GMA then MMA/BMA mix
60	MMA ₃ 200 gm	30:70 GMA/MMA 1115 gm	100-132	VAZO 88 12.5 gm 228 ml BAc	9.7	50 gm monomer mix at start
61	GMA ₂	15.6:84.4 GMA/MMA 1460 gm	120	VAZO 88 21.7 gm 346 ml BAc	16.6	15 gm monomer mix at start
62	GMA ₂	12:26:62 IBMA/GMA/MMA 557 gm	130	VAZO 88 11.6 gm 204 ml BAc	11.5	5 gm monomer mix at start
63	GMA ₂	23:20:57 BMA/GMA/MMA 755 gm	120	VAZO 88 12.8 gm 203 ml BAc	24	2 gm monomer mix at start
64	GMA ₂	10:32:58 IBMA/GMA/MMA 455 gm	140	t-butyl- perbenzoate 6.8 gm	9.9	13 gm monomer mix at start

Table 10 summarizes the polymerization illustrated in Table 9.

Table 10: Summary of Narrow Polydispersity Polymers Made by Solution Process

Example	Polymer Description	Mn (by GPC)	Dispersity
57	MMAn	2700	1.58
58	MMA2//GMAmCHMAnMMAp//MMA	4970	1.44
59	MMA2//GMAm//MMAnBMAp//MMA	6800	1.48
60	MMA2//GMAmMMAn//MMA	2170	1.44
61	GMA//MMAmGMAn//GMA	3360	1.45
62	GMA/MMAmBMAn GMAp//GMA	3420	1.3
63	GMA/MMAmBMAn GMAp//GMA	4560	1.49
64	GMA//MMA _m BMA _n GMA _p //GMA	2880	1.45

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